

Collaborative Learning – An Expert Practice for Implementing Ecosystem Management

What is Collaborative Learning? Collaborative Learning is an approach to building effective partnerships among researchers, managers, policy makers and government officials committed to maintaining the qualities and values of healthy ecosystems that are vital to the communities dependent upon them. Collaborative Learning includes a robust set of principles and practices. These principles and practices can be applied to build capacity among diverse stakeholders for identifying and analyzing complex situations, developing and evaluating strategies for improving situations of mutual concern and supporting the implementation of group generated solutions. Drawing from social science research on decision making in complex systems, conflict resolution, and principles of adult and organizational learning, the Collaborative Learning approach synthesizes a robust body of research into a set of practical techniques that can be applied and adapted as an essential tool supporting the practice of ecosystem management.

Who will benefit from this workshop? Researchers, managers, outreach professionals, planners and government officials who regularly work in partnership to accomplish shared goals for sustaining coastal resources.

Participants will develop practical skills for incorporating Collaborative Learning principles and practices into their work Participants in this workshop will learn how Collaborative Learning can be used to build stakeholder teams for problem solving, support policy analysis and adaptive management, facilitate science translation and implement the goals of systems approaches to environmental management. Drawing from personal work experiences participants will practice the five steps of Collaborative Learning to identify ways to incorporate elements of the approach to their work. Using the Collaborative Learning approach, participants will identify opportunities for and barriers to applying this methodology to improve coastal management in the region.

WHO: Researchers, managers, outreach professionals, planners and government officials who regularly work in partnership to accomplish shared goals for sustaining coastal resources.

WHEN: September 22nd and 23rd 2010, 9:30am-3:30pm each day (Lunch provided)

WHERE: Ft. Johnson complex Charleston, SC

Register for this workshop at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/collaborativelearning>

